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THOUSANDS GATHER IN DELHI FOR KISAN MAHAPANCHAYAT

Farmers demanded legislation on key issues like minimum support price and farm loan waiver during the day-long event

GOVT YET TO ADDRESS ISSUES: FARMERS

The mahapanchayat was organised by Samyukta Kisan Morcha and other farmers' groups. They say the Centre has done nothing to address the demands which the farmers raised during last year's protests against the farm laws. Many came to the Jantar Mantar with their bags packed, signalling their intent to stay put till all their demands are met

GOVT PANEL ON MSP HOLDS FIRST MEETING

The committee on MSP held its first meeting on Monday, during which it created four sub-groups on mandated topics, including making "MSP more effective and transparent". The sub-groups will also study "zero budget-based farming", crop diversification and various ways to the change cropping patterns

250

FARMERS FROM KERALA AND NEARBY STATES TOOK PART IN DELHI EVENT

CBI to summon 11 babus caught in liquor scam web

SUMIT KUMAR SINGH @ New Delhi

AFTER questioning four liquor barons and middlemen over the past few days, the CBI is expected to summon 11 bureaucrats against whom action was recommended last week by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena in connection with the Delhi liquor policy scam.

All 11 officers are part of the Delhi excise department. Three of them — Arva Gopi Krishna, the then Commissioner (Excise), Anand Tiwari, the then Deputy Commissioner (Excise), and Pankaj Bhatnagar, Assistant Commissioner (Excise) — figure in the CBI's first information report as accused in the scam. Krishna and Tiwari were suspended by the Union home ministry on Monday.

The FIR alleged that the liquor barons were in close contact with accused public servants and were regularly lining their pockets. The eight others suspended are assistant commissioners Narinder Singh and Neeraj Gupta, section officers Kuljeet Singh, Subhash Ranjan and Suman and dealing hands Satya Brat Bhargav, Sachin Solanki and Gaurav Mann. They have not been named in the case yet.

The L-G had found serious lapses on the part of the officers in the implementation of the excise policy, including finalising the tender and extending benefits to select vendors.

The initial probe found blatant violation of procedures, deliberate misinterpretation and subversion of basic government financial rules to provide benefit to licensees for alleged quid pro quo.

Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar had submitted a report to the L-G alleging corruption and violation of transaction of business rules by the bureaucrats in the rollout of the new excise policy. The report al-



AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia in Ahmedabad on Monday | P1

SAMEER MAHENDRU QUESTIONED

The CBI on Monday questioned Sameer Mahendru of Indospirit, in connection with the Delhi excise policy scam. The CBI FIR specifies two instances where Mahendru allegedly made payments totalling ₹4-5 crore to "close associates" of Sisodia

leged that undue benefits were provided to liquor vend licensees in lieu of kickbacks and commissions.

These officers did not inform the authority concerned despite being aware of "illegal activities" and changes made to the policy by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

Besides, the ministry decided to modify the excise policy "without obtaining the opinion of Lt Governor as mandated." Saxena stated that major changes in annual license fee and amending the methodology to calculate the fee were approved through a cabinet decision on June 23, 2021, but it was not submitted for the opinion of the L-G.

He also pointed out that decisions were taken by the excise department without the approval of the competent authority to extend undue favour to the licensee 'Post Tender'.

SC ACCEPTS FIFA FIAT, DISBANDS CoA

INDRANEEL DAS @ Chennai

JOINING the effort to lift the bar on India hosting the U-17 Women's World Cup, the Supreme Court on Monday said the day-to-day functioning of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) will be handled by the acting secretary general and not the Committee of Administrators (CoA).

The international football federation (FIFA) had on August 15 singled out the CoA for what it called "third party interference" in running the AIFF while suspending it, adding India cannot host the U-17 World Cup, starting from October 11. Ever since, the sports ministry has been on an overdrive to get the suspension lifted and get the World Cup

back on track. FIFA had also told the ministry that 36 eminent players proposed by the CoA cannot be part of the electoral college, adding AIFF's constitution should follow FIFA and Asian Football Confederation statutes.

The sports ministry had filed an application in the court on Sunday, requesting it to modify its orders to align them with the demands of FIFA. A division bench of justices DY Chandrachud and

AS Bopanna consented, agreeing that hosting the World Cup is a matter of great prestige.

Accordingly, the SC bench said, "The election programme that was fixed by its order of August 3 can be modified by extending it by a period of one week. The voters list for the ensuing elections shall consist of 36 state and Union Territory units (35+1 associations)." It meant the 36 eminent players have been dropped from the electoral college.

COA NOT TO TAKE OVER AFFAIRS OF IOA

The Supreme Court on Monday extended its status quo until further orders, which had stated that the Delhi High Court-appointed three-member Committee of Administrators (COA) will not take over the affairs of the Indian Olympic Association.

All pourakarmikas to be regularised soon: Karjol

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

MAJOR and Medium Irrigation Minister Govind Karjol on Monday said that the state government will soon issue an order regularising jobs of all pourakarmikas working at local bodies across the state.

Speaking during a function organised by the Mysuru district administration and Safai Karmachari Commission to felicitate meritorious children of civic workers and Safai Karmacharis, the minister said that in



the next two months all those working under direct payment system will be regularised.

IS suicide bomber with BJP as target arrested in Russia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

RUSSIA claimed on Monday it has arrested an Islamic State terrorist specially trained to carry out a suicide bombing to eliminate a member of the ruling BJP in India.

"The detainee is a native of a Central Asian country, who planned to commit a terrorist attack against a member of India's ruling circles by blowing himself up," Russia's Federal Security Service said.

The suspect was recruited by the IS group between April and June in Turkey, Russian state-owned TASS news agency reported. After undergoing special training, the man, who has not been identified by the Russian authorities, flew to Moscow. He was then instructed to gather the necessary documents from there and head to India.

The suicide attack was planned as a revenge for offensive remarks made against the Prophet.

"I was supposed to be given things there (in India) to commit a terrorist attack at the behest of the IS for insulting the Prophet Muhammad," the man can be heard saying in a video of his interrogation released by the Russian authorities.

It was not immediately clear who his intended target was.



A huge pothole seen at the entrance of Kempegowda Bus Station, endangering the safety of both motorists and pedestrians, in Bengaluru on Monday | VINOD KUMAR T

Man suffers spinal injury after bus hits pothole

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

A passenger suffered serious injuries to his spinal cord and neck when the KSRTC bus in which he was travelling hit a pothole at Kalladka in Bantwal taluk of Dakshina Kannada district.

The passenger, Vijay, was on the rear seat of the bus when it hit the pothole on the National Highway near Kalladka where road work is underway. Vijay (41), a mobile shop vendor from Sullia, was thrown off his seat due to the impact. He felt severe pain and cried for help. The driver then stopped the bus and Vijay was taken to a local hospital before being shifted to

Wenlock Hospital. He is now undergoing treatment at KMC Hospital.

The incident occurred on August 17 when Vijay was returning to Bellare after finishing his work in Mangaluru.

Doctors attending on him said that Vijay's spinal cord and a nerve near the neck are damaged. "The bus driver and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) are responsible for my plight. My lower part of the body is numb and I am worried about who will look after my wife and children," he said.

Abdul, the driver of the bus, has been booked under Sections 279 (rash driving on public way), 283, 337 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

EXPRESS IMPACT

Ostracised family reunited with villagers after 10 years

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS @ Kolar

ACTING on the report, 'Ostracised 10 yrs ago... still no hope for this family', published in The New Indian Express on Sunday (Aug. 21, 2022), the district administration swung into action and brokered peace between the family and the village head.

A family belonging to the Halakki Vokkaliga community was ostracised by the Harwada village head, Anand Siddegouda, who also belongs to the same community, for not inviting him to a wedding.

The social boycott of the family of Bunt Venku Gouda has now ended with the Tahsildar of Ankola mediating between the two and ensuring that the villagers welcome them back into their community.

The Tahsildar, on directions from Mullai Muhilan, DC, Uttara Kannada, called Siddegouda and other villagers and the family members of Venku Bunt Gouda, which was ostracised in February 2012.

"The Tahsildar has strictly told the villagers to end the boycott immediately. It has been resolved now," Muhilan said. Muhilan said that he will ensure that such a thing does not occur in future and that he has instructed local officials and the Assistant Commissioner to make frequent visits to the village. According to the Gouda family, they were not allowed to buy groceries and even denied access to drinking water. Venku Gouda died in 2014, but the boycott had continued.

NATIONWIDE	AUG 21	AUG 22	JAB-O-METER
Fresh cases	11,519	9,531	TAKE YOUR SHOT
Recoveries	12,783	11,726	August 21
Deaths	43	36	30,03,269 doses
KARNATAKA	AUG 21	AUG 22	August 22
Fresh cases	720	1,268	23,98,463 doses
Recoveries	662	1,219	TOTAL DOSES
Deaths	2	6	2,10,26,10,066

B'luru Rural sub-registrar, BJP councillor, inspector held in Jaipur for gambling

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolar

A Bengaluru Rural district sub-registrar, Kolar City Municipality nominated councillor, police inspector attached to the cybersecurity cell and four others from Karnataka were among the 84 people arrested at a farmhouse in Jaisinghpura Khor of Jaipur on charges of gambling during the weekend.

The gambling session was organised by a Delhi-based man and the entry per head was fixed at Rs 2 lakh. The police also arrested 13 women, who were brought from outside Ra-

jaasthan to entertain the guests. During the raid, playing card tables, 14 luxury cars and Rs 23 lakh cash were seized, sources said. The seven arrested from Karnataka are Bengaluru Rural District Sub-Registrar Srinath, Kolar town nominated councillor Sathish (BJP), Cybercrime, Economic Offences and Narcotics wing Inspector Anjanappa, teacher Ramesh, businessmen Sudhakar and Sabharish and another person, they said.

The police raided the farmhouse on credible information that some high-profile gamblers were gathering for the

high-stakes event. It is said the organisers had the contacts of top gamblers from different cities and sent out the invites. Charges under various sections of the Gambling Act have been slapped against them, while the organisers have also been booked for human trafficking.

Apart from Karnataka, gamblers from Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Telangana and New Delhi had gathered in Jaipur, the sources said. Kolar SP Devaraj said Anjanappa had applied for leave for three days and he was suspended after the gambling case surfaced. All those who were arrested were released on station bail later.

SLEEPLESS IN BELAGAVI

Elusive leopard: Now, 2 jumbos to join search op

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR & SUNIL PATIL @ Belagavi

FOREST Minister Umesh Katti said on Monday that the leopard which has been giving sleepless nights to residents of Belagavi will be caught within the next two to three days. "The search operation will now have two elephants which will be brought from Sakrebailu in Shivamogga district," he added.

Addressing a press confer-

ence after holding a meeting with officials, Umesh Katti said leopards have been sighted at four places in Belagavi district in the past 20 days. "I am told that the leopard spotted in Chikkodi a few days ago has entered the forest in neighbouring Maharashtra via Athani. The leopards which were earlier sighted in Mudalagi and Saundatti taluk have not appeared again in the past ten days," he said. Katti said that

the leopard will be darted with tranquilisers when it is spotted next time. As many as 120 forest and 80 police officials have been deputed for the operation, he said. Soon after a video clip of the leopard moving near the golf course fence and crossing over to the other side near Club Road on Monday went viral, forest and police officials huddled near the golf course with a large contingent of their personnel. P5



A video grab shows forest personnel trying to capture the leopard in Belagavi

Egg attack on Siddur: Probe team set up

Madikeri: The state government has ordered a high-level probe into the incident of throwing eggs on former CM Siddaramaiah's convoy on August 18. A special team, headed by Additional Superintendent of Police of Chamarajanagar has been formed to look into the matter | P4

IMD issues yellow alert for parts of K'taka

Bengaluru: The IMD on Monday issued a yellow alert for parts of coastal and south interior Karnataka for the next two days. IMD predicted heavy rainfall in parts of coastal Karnataka. It said Bengaluru and its outskirts will remain cloudy and receive rain for five days.

3 tremors hit Vijayapura in 48-hour period

Vijayapura: In a span of just 48 hours, the Vijayapura district recorded three tremors of magnitudes 2.6 to 3.5 on the Richter scale. Tremors of low-intensity were felt across a few villages, and in parts of the district headquarters on Saturday, Sunday and Monday | P5